

REMARKS

The present application has been further carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated January 3, 2005, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1 to 10 are on file, and have been considered. Claims 1 and 2 are currently amended. These amendments are based on the specification as follows:

In claim 1, on page 3, lines 10-12 (hydroxyl functional compounds **A**), page 3, lines 12-13 (acid **B**), page 3, lines 18-22 (unsaturated compounds **C**), and page 3, lines 14-18 (compounds **D**).

In claim 2, on page 3, lines 2-3 (moieties derived from olefinically unsaturated monomers **E**), and page 3, lines 3-4 (produced by polymerising the olefinically unsaturated monomers **E**).

It is therefore deemed that no new mater has been added.

The recited range of the specific content of sulfonic acid groups in **ABCDE** must not be contained in the range given for the sulfonic acid groups content because if monomers **E** having no sulfonic acid groups are used, the content in the polymer **ABCDE** is necessarily lower than that in **ABCD**.

Similarly, the specific content in sulfonic acid groups in **ABCDE** may be higher than that of **ABCD** because vinyl monomers such as vinyl sulfonic acid may have been used for copolymerisation.

For this reason, the range given in claim 2 is not necessarily contained within the range given in claim 1.

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Accordingly, for the reasons expressed above and the initial response to the Office Action of January 3, 2005, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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